

1. A rack for holding at least one specimen slide comprising:
 - a frame having opposed first and second sides with opposed first and second inner surfaces, respectively; and
 - a first support bar having an opening adapted to support one end
- 5 of a specimen slide, the support bar having a first edge connected to the first inner surface of the frame, the first support bar being movable with respect to the frame.

2. The rack of claim 1 further comprising a second support bar attached to the frame and substantially parallel to the first support bar, the second support bar having an opening located opposite the opening in the first support bar, the opening in the second support bar adapted to support an opposite end of the specimen slide.

3. The rack of claim 2 wherein the second support bar has a first edge connected to the second inner surface of the frame, the second support bar being movable with respect to the frame.

4. The rack of claim 3 wherein the first and second support bars are cantilevered from the first and second inner surfaces of the frame, respectively, and are resiliently deflectable with respect to the frame.

5. The rack of claim 4 wherein the frame further comprises lower edges defining a lowermost boundary of the frame, and the support bars have ends that are spaced away from the ends of the frame.

6. The rack of claim 5 wherein the frame further comprises opposed ends connected to the sides of the frame, and the ends have lower edges defining the lowermost boundary of the frame.

7. The rack of claim 6 wherein each of the support bars angles downward from a respective inner surface toward the lower edges of the ends of the frame and forms an included acute angle with a respective side of the frame.

8. A rack for holding at least one specimen slide comprising:
a frame having opposed first and second sides connected to two
opposed ends, the frame having lower edges defining a bottom boundary of the
frame;

5 a generally planar first support bar having upper and lower side
edges and an opening adapted to support one end of a specimen slide, the
upper side edge of the first support bar being connected to an upper portion of
an inner surface of the first side, the first support bar angling downward from the
inner surface of the first side and forming an included acute angle therewith, the
10 lower side edge of the first support bar being located above the lower edges of
the frame.

9. The rack of claim 8 further comprising a second support bar having
upper and lower side edges and an opening opposed the opening in the first
support bar and adapted to support an opposite end of the specimen slide, the
upper side edge of the second support bar being connected to an upper portion
5 of a second side of the frame, the second support bar angling outward and
downward from the upper portion of the second side and forming an included
acute angle therewith, lower side edge of the first support bar being located
above the lower edges of the frame.

10. The rack of claim 9 wherein the opening in each of the first and
second support bars has a substantially diamond shape with two opposed
corners of the diamond shape substantially perpendicular to the side edges.

11. The rack of claim 9 wherein the frame has two opposed ends and
the first and second support bars have a length less than a length of respective
sides such that the support bars are spaced away from the ends of the frame.

12. The rack of claim 11 wherein the first and second support bars are
cantilevered with respect to the first and second sides, respectively, and are
resiliently deflectable with respect to the frame.

13. A slide case for holding and transporting at least one specimen slide comprising:

a base having a first latch portion;

a rack positionable within the base and comprising

a second latch portion such that upon positioning the rack within the base, the first and second latch portions are placed in juxtaposition to releasably secure the rack in the base, and

a pair of generally parallel and planar support bars having at least two opposed openings adapted to support a specimen slide;

a cover positionable adjacent to and over the base.

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14. The slide case of claim 13 wherein one of the first and second latch portions is a projecting detent and the other of the first and second latch portions is a recess.

15. The slide case of claim 14 wherein the first latch portion is a detent and the second latch portion is a recess.

16. The slide case of claim 15 wherein the detent is disposed in an end wall of the base and the recess is disposed in an end of the frame.

17. The slide case of claim 16 wherein the end of the frame is resiliently deflectable to permit the detent to be moved with respect to the recess between latched and unlatched positions.

18. The slide case of claim 13 further comprising a rib on the cover adapted to be positioned immediately adjacent an upper edge of the specimen slide upon the cover being positioned adjacent the base.

19. The slide case of claim 18 further comprising a pair of spaced apart ribs on an inner surface of the cover and adapted to contact the upper edge of the specimen slide at two locations.

20. The slide case of claim 13 wherein each of the support bars has one edge connected to a different one of the sides of the frame, so that the support bar is deflectable with respect to the frame.

21. A slide case for holding and transporting a specimen slide comprising:

5 a base;

a rack positionable adjacent the base and comprising opposed supports adapted to support opposite ends of a specimen slide; and

10 a cover positionable adjacent the base to enclose the rack between the base and cover, the cover having a projection on an inner surface adapted

15 to contact an upper edge of the specimen slide upon the cover being placed on the base, thereby securing the specimen slide between the rack and the cover.

22. The slide case of claim 21 wherein the projection is a rib extending substantially perpendicular to a plane of the specimen slide.

23. The slide case of claim 21 wherein the projection is a pair of ribs extending substantially perpendicular to a plane of the specimen slide.

24. The slide case of claim 21 wherein each of the opposed supports further comprises a resiliently deflectable support bar having an opening adapted to support an end of the specimen slide.

25. The slide case of claim 21 further comprising a first latch portion on the base and a second latch portion on the rack such that upon placing the rack in the base, the latch portions are placed in juxtaposition to releasably secure the rack in the base.

26. A rack for holding at least one specimen slide comprising:
a frame having opposed first and second sides and opposed first
and second ends connected to ends of the sides; and
first and second opposed supports connected to the frame and
adapted to support opposite ends of a specimen slide; and
first and second holes extending through the first and second ends,
respectively, of the frame, the holes facilitating picking up and carrying the rack.

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27. The rack of claim 26 further comprising first and second tabs
extending upward from the respective first and second ends of the frame, the
first and second tabs receiving the respective first and second holes.

28. A slide case for holding and transporting a specimen slide comprising:

- a rack comprising
 - a frame having two opposed sides, and
 - 5 a pair of generally parallel support bars, each of the support bars having
 - 10 a first edge connected to a different one of the sides of the frame, so that the support bar is deflectable with respect to the first edge, and
 - an opening located opposite an opening in an opposite support bar, the opening adapted to support one end of a specimen slide;
 - a base having a cavity for receiving a lower portion of the rack, and
 - 15 a cover having a cavity for receiving an upper portion of the rack upon the cover being placed on the base, the cover and base completely enclosing the rack and the slide supported therein.

29. The slide case of claim 28 wherein the cover further comprising a rib on an inner surface of the cavity, the rib adapted to be immediately adjacent an upper edge of the slide upon the cover being placed on the base.

30. The slide case of claim 28 further comprising a first latch portion on the base and a second latch portion on the rack such that upon placing the rack in the base, the latch portions are placed in juxtaposition to releasably secure the rack in the base.

31. The slide case of claim 28 wherein the support bars are resiliently deflectable in response to the cover being joined with the base and the projection adapted to contact an upper edge of the specimen slide.

32. The slide case of claim 28 further comprising a pair of ribs on the surface of the cavity of the cover, the pair of ribs adapted to contact the upper edge of the specimen slide at two locations.

33. A method of holding and transporting specimen slides comprising:
inserting the specimen slide into opposed supports, one of the
supports having one edge attached to one side of a rack and being movable with
respect to the rack;

5 inserting the rack with the specimen slide into a base;
 placing a cover over the base so that the cover contacts an upper
edge of the specimen slide; and
 moving the cover toward the base to push the specimen slide with
the cover against the one of the supports so that the one of the supports moves

10 and the specimen slide is secured between the cover and the one of the
supports.

34. The method of claim 33 further comprising:
inserting the specimen slide into opposed openings in the opposed supports, each of the supports being resiliently deflectable with respect to the rack; and

5 pushing the specimen slide with the cover against the opposed supports, so that the opposed supports deflect and the specimen slide is secured between the cover and the opposed supports.

35. The method of claim 33 further comprising securing the cover on the base to permit transportation of the specimen slides in the rack.

36. The method of claim 33 further comprising pushing the specimen slide with a projection extending from an internal surface of the cover.

37. The method of claim 33 further comprising pushing the specimen slide with a rib extending from an internal surface of the cover.

38. The method of claim 37 further comprising pushing the specimen slide with a pair of ribs extending from an internal surface of the cover.

39. The method of claim 33 further comprising latching the rack with the specimen slide into the base prior to placing the cover over the base.

40. The method of claim 33 further comprising:
moving the cover away from the base; and
removing the rack with the specimen slide from the base.

41. The method of claim 40 further comprising unlatching the rack with the specimen slide from the base prior to removing the rack holding the specimen slide from the base.

42. A method of holding and processing specimen slides comprising:
inserting a specimen slide into opposed supports of a rack, one of
the opposed supports having one edge attached to one of a plurality of rack
sides, a first rack side having a lower edge defining a lowermost boundary of the
5 rack and a second rack side having a lowermost edge above the lowermost
boundary, thereby defining a flow path beneath the second side;
inserting the rack with the specimen slide into a processing device;
operating the processing device; and
removing the rack with the specimen slide from the processing
10 device.

43. The method of claim 42 further comprising:
inserting the specimen slide into opposed openings in an opposed
pair of support bars, each of the support bars being resiliently deflectable with
respect to the rack.

44. The method of claim 42 further comprising:
inserting the rack with the specimen slide into a centrifuge; and
operating the centrifuge to cause fluid on the specimen slide to flow
off of the specimen slide and along the flow path beneath the second side of the
rack.

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